

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES
POST OFFICE BOX 98000
BATON ROUGE, LA 70898-9000

Waterfowl Population Estimates
in Louisiana's Coastal Zone Below
U.S. Highway 90

Date: Coastal Zone February 7-9, 2004

Reported By: S. Durham, M. Perot

February 11, 2004

Pilot: G. Rackle

Estimates made from Aircraft (*) Estimate less than 1,000

SPECIES	SOUTHWEST	SOUTHEAST	CATAHOULA LAKE	TOTALS
MALLARD	207,000	45,000		252,000
MOTTLED	39,000	39,000		78,000
GADWALL	287,000	555,000		842,000
WIGEON	10,000	32,000		42,000
GW TEAL	180,000	324,000		504,000
BW TEAL	23,000	30,000		53,000
SHOVELER	105,000	15,000		120,000
PINTAIL	291,000	42,000		333,000
TOTAL DABBLERS	1,142,000	1,082,000		2,224,000
SCAUP	30,000	383,000		413,000
RINGNECKED	67,000	161,000		228,000
CANVASBACK	*	44,000		44,000
TOTAL DIVERS	97,000	588,000		685,000
TOTAL DUCKS	1,239,000	1,670,000		2,909,000
COOTS	92,000	763,000		855,000

COMMENTS:

The coastal estimate of 2.9 million ducks is very similar to last month's estimate of 3.1 million. Notable concentrations of ducks (mostly pintails) were observed in the rice fields south of Lake Charles and large concentrations of scaup were observed in Timbalier Bay. Distribution of dabblers was evenly divided between southeast and southwest Louisiana, but divers were more abundant in southeast Louisiana.

Very abundant sheet water exists across the rice prairies with nearly unlimited places for ducks to feed and rest in combination with the marsh.